(b) whether it is also a fact that these two countries are the top polluters of the world; and

(c) if so, what kind of pressure India would like to exercise to make US and Australia agree to sign the Protocol?

THE MINISTER OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (SHRI A. RAJA): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) USA is the largest emitter of Green-house Gases in the world. In 1990 it alone accounted for over 36% of developed countries emissions and its emissions have continued to grow. However, the emissions of Australia in 1990 accounted for 2.1 % of developed countries emissions. A few developed countries accounted for more emissions than of Australia in 1990.

(c) India has been stating in the Conference of Parties to the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC) that all countries who have not ratified the Kyoto Protocol should do so at the earliest. However every sovereign countries has the right to join or not to join any treaty/protocol.

Save girl child

*256. SHRIMATI SYEDA ANWARA TAIMUR: Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have taken any fresh initiative to save girl child;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether Government have formulated any policy to give incentives or to provide major benefits, in addition to the existing benefits, to the employees who take part in the family planning with only girl child; and

(d) if so, the details thereof and the steps being taken to increase the percentage of girl child?

THE MINISTER OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (DR. ANBUMANI RAMDOSS): (a) and (b) The Government is continuously working towards ending the practice of pre-birth elimination of females. Acomprehensive Act known as Pre-conception and Pre-natal Diagnostic Techniques (Prohibition of Sex Selection) Act, 1994 (PC & PMDT Act) is being implemented in the country. The Act provides for the prohibition of sex selection, before or after

conception, and for regulation of pre-natal diagnostic techniques for the purpose of detecting certain abnormalities and for the prevention of their misuse for sex determination leading to female foeticide; and for the matters connected therewith. The Implementation of the Act rests with the States and Union Territories through the Appropriate Authorities appointed under the Act at State, District as well as Sub-district levels. The violators of the Act are punishable with imprisonment upto 5 years and fine upto Rs. 5 lakhs, alongwith cancellation of registration of the licence. By the end of February, 2005,25770 Units have been registered in the country. There are 300'ongoing Court/Police Cases and 33 machines seized/sealed. Out of the total of 300 violations, 214 relate to non-registration, 10 relate to non-maintenance of records, 24 against communication of the sex of the foetus and the remaining are for other violations of the Act. This sends a signal to the society at large, and females in particular, that gender-based discrimination shall not be tolerated.

(c) and (d) No, Sir. It is, nevertheless, recognized that mere PC & PNDT Act is not enough to deal with the problem that has roots in social behaviour and prejudices. Various activities have been undertaken to create awareness against the practice of pre-natal determination of sex and female foeticide through Radio, Television and print media units. Workshops and seminars have also been organized at State/regional/district/block levels to create awareness against this social evil. Cooperation has also been sought from religious leaders, as well as medical fraternity to curb this practice. The Government of India has launched 'Save the Girl Child Campaign' with a view to lessen son preference by highlighting achievements of young girls. For 2003-04, Ms. Sania Mirza, player, and for 2004-05, Ms. Aruna Kesvan, CBSE topper, were appointed as Brand Ambassador for the Campaign.

Mashelkar Committee on drug prices

*257. SHRI GIREESH KUMAR SANGHI: Will the Minister of CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS be pleased to state:

(a) the major recommendation of Mashelkar Committee on drug prices;

(b) the details of the recommendations implemented by Government;

(c) whether Government are keeping a tab of the price structure of drugs;

(d) if so, the details thereof; and

(e) if not, the reasons therefor?